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## ***Hurricane Response:***

### **1 Scott Pruitt Visits San Jacinto Waste Pits Post-Harvey, Promises EPA Decision By October**

<http://www.houstonpress.com/news/epa-head-scott-pruitt-promises-decision-on-san-jacinto-waste-pits-by-ut-ou-game-9802625>

During his visit to Texas last week, Environmental Protection Agency head Scott Pruitt promised the EPA would arrive at a permanent solution for the San Jacinto Waste Pits before the football rivalry game between the University of Texas and Oklahoma University on October 14. It's unclear why Pruitt, an Oklahoma native, felt like it was important to make the annual Red River Rivalry — which occurs in Dallas — a deadline for the EPA finally landing on a plan for what to do with the waste pits, but then again, if Pruitt is making promises that even smell like there's a decision around the corner on what will be done with the San Jacinto Waste Pits, why look such a gift horse in the mouth?

### **2 Far From the Texas Coast, Hurricane Harvey Hits Oil Refiners**

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-09-18/far-from-the-texas-coast-hurricane-harvey-hits-oil-refiners-j7qrx1p8>

Three weeks after Hurricane Harvey ravaged the massive fuel-making industry along the Texas coast, the region's recovery from storm damage is starting to disrupt plans for crucial maintenance at refineries thousands of miles away from the flood zones. Harvey knocked out almost one-quarter of U.S. refining capacity in late August, sending gasoline and diesel prices soaring. The storm hit a few weeks before most of the nation's fuel makers were set to begin seasonal shutdowns. Demand usually slows at this time of year, so it's a good time to make repairs and install new equipment at plants that typically run all day every day.

### **3 Texas education chief making his mark in Harvey crisis**

<http://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-texas/houston/article/Texas-education-commissioner-leads-Harvey-12207515.php>

Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath's office became more of a triage unit than a traditional education office once Hurricane Harvey hit. Which school districts did the hurricane mow over? How bad is the flooding? Are schools that were either wrecked or flooded safe enough for class? Are children safe enough to be able to go to school?

### **4 Hey, Texplainer: How is FEMA distributing money to areas hit by Harvey?**

<https://www.texastribune.org/2017/09/19/hey-texplainer-how-fema-distributing-money-areas-affected-harvey/>

Hey, Texplainer: How much aid has the federal government sent Texas for Hurricane Harvey recovery, and how is the Federal Emergency Management Agency distributing that money? It's been several weeks since Harvey slammed the Texas Coast and left Houston — the nation's fourth-largest city — grappling with unprecedented flooding. State officials put the latest death toll at 82, though it may take weeks to determine the exact number of fatalities.

### **5 Study Finds FEMA Flood Maps Missed 75% Of Houston Flood Damage Claims Between 1999 And 2009**

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/trevornace/2017/09/18/fema-flood-maps-missed-claims-harvey-houston/#2f7730b29938>

A recent study found that FEMA failed to capture 75 percent of flood damages within their flood maps between 1999 and 2009. The FEMA flood maps are the primary source for how the government and insurance companies evaluate flood risk and insurance premiums. There are collectively trillions of dollars worth of property that rely on these maps being accurate.

## ***Around the Region:***

### **6 These stark photos show the charred remains of the Texas chemical fire that ignited after Harvey, Washington Post, 9/19/17**

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2017/09/19/these-stark-photos-show-the-charred-remains-of-the-texas-chemical-fire-that-ignited-after-harvey/?utm\\_term=.9710f16106a4](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2017/09/19/these-stark-photos-show-the-charred-remains-of-the-texas-chemical-fire-that-ignited-after-harvey/?utm_term=.9710f16106a4)

The U.S. Chemical Safety Board on Monday released stark photos of the scorched remains of containers at the Arkema chemical plant in Crosby, Tex., that burned in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. Two of the photos show the skeletal remains of three shipping-size containers covered with ash near the edge of the Arkema facility. Another shows a container burned beyond recognition in front of a charred warehouse.

### **7 13 In car-centric Houston, low-income residents struggle after Harvey ruined their vehicles, Texas Tribune, 9/19/17**

<https://www.texastribune.org/2017/09/19/low-income-houstonians-struggle-after-hurricane-harvey-ruined-their-ve/>

Daniel Gonzalez stood next to his father under the shade of a tree at the Imperial Oaks apartment complex last week and offered

fallow glances at the parking lot where the men's two immobile vehicles sat. The 18-year-old and his dad used to pay the bills by working as day laborers at various construction jobs. But ever since Hurricane Harvey dumped more than 50 inches of rain on parts of this city, flooding their parking lot and rendering their cars useless, they're now unable to get to work. That's left them spending their days in a monotonous, hopeless holding pattern that's stretched on for weeks.

#### **8 Cedar Creek community hopes to stop proposed waste transfer station Fox 7, 9/18/17**

<http://www.fox7austin.com/news/local-news/cedar-creek-community-hopes-to-stop-proposed-waste-transfer-station>

People in Cedar Creek are fighting a proposed waste transfer station a private company wants to build in their community. A waste transfer station collects garbage from surrounding communities. That waste is then compacted and reloaded onto larger trucks which transfer it to a landfill.

#### **9 \$117,691 in Solid Waste Related Grant Funding Available for East Texas Region, Gilmre Mirror, 9/19/17**

[http://www.gilmermirror.com/pages/full\\_story/push?article-%24117-691+in+Solid+Waste+Related+Grant+Funding+Available+for+East+Texas+Region%20&id=27480411&instance=lead\\_story\\_left\\_column](http://www.gilmermirror.com/pages/full_story/push?article-%24117-691+in+Solid+Waste+Related+Grant+Funding+Available+for+East+Texas+Region%20&id=27480411&instance=lead_story_left_column)

Local governments and special districts have the opportunity to receive grant funds from the East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) funded by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). To support regional waste minimization efforts in ETCOG's fourteen (14) county region, the solid waste program is accepting applications for its annual Municipal Solid Waste grant funds.

#### **10 US EPA eases rules for Texas fuel storage facilities hit by Harvey, Platts, 9/18/17**

<https://www.platts.com/latest-news/oil/washington/us-epa-eases-rules-for-texas-fuel-storage-facilities-21985511>

The US Environmental Protection Agency has eased several rules for gasoline storage facilities and bulk fuel terminals in Texas that were affected by Hurricane Harvey. The agency late Friday issued "no action assurance" letters waiving the rules through September 22.

#### **11 Spreading plume of chemicals threatens aquifer, Taos News, 9/18/17**

<http://www.taosnews.com/stories/spreading-plume-of-chemicals-threatens-aquifer.43082>

For more than a decade, a vast, mile-wide, below-ground plume of cancer-causing chemicals has encroached on the regional aquifer that rests below Los Alamos National Laboratory. The lab has said it is working to contain the contamination and prevent it from entering tribal land or further polluting a water supply relied on by residents from Los Alamos to Albuquerque. A lab spokesman said he was unable to respond to questions about the plume by deadline but would have a response Monday.